

REMARKS / DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

The Office action mistakenly asserts that claims 1-21 are pending in the application. The applicant notes that this application was filed with 24 claims. The Office action subsequently fails to address claims 22-24.

Claims 1-7, 12-17, and 22-32 are now pending in the application. Claims 8-11 and 18-21 are canceled herein, and claims 25-32 are newly added. The applicant reserves the right to pursue these canceled claims in a divisional application.

The Office action asserts that the application encompasses two subcombinations, and requires the applicant to elect one of these subcombinations: subcombination I, with corresponding claims 1-7 and 12-17, or subcombination II, with corresponding claims 8-11 and 18-21. The Office action fails to identify how original claims 22-24 are mapped to these subcombinations.

The applicant elects subcombination I, and claims 1-7, 12-17, and 22-32 for subsequent prosecution in this application.

If any points remain in issue that may best be resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

/Robert M. McDermott/
Robert M. McDermott, Attorney
Registration Number 41,508
patents@lawyer.com

1824 Federal Farm Road
Montross, VA 22520
Phone: 804-493-0707
Fax: 215-243-7525